

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-23 and 25-34 are pending. Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of all previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (listing and providing copies of 16 references) was mailed to the USPTO on December 4, 2003. Applicants request that the references be reviewed and initialed copies of the Forms SB/08A and SB/08B be returned.

Double patenting

Claims 1, 8-12 and 14 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 19-22 and 31-34 of copending US Patent Application Serial No. 10/245,415. Office Action, paragraph 12. In response, a terminal disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/245,415 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, this rejection can be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The single remaining grounds for rejection has been obviated by the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance and look forward to early notification to that effect. Please address all communications to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 20, 2004

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